

REMARKS

Before entry of this Amendment and Response, the status of the application according to the pending Office action is as follows:

- Claims 1-3, 5, 8-16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,451,488 to Cook *et al.* (hereinafter “Cook”).
- Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook as applied to claims 1-3, 5, 8-16, and 18 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,784,867 to LaBaw *et al.* (hereinafter “LaBaw”).
- Claim 17 is objected to because of the following formalities: In claim 17, step b., “and” should replace the first comma, and in step c., “products” should be singular. Claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objection(s) set forth above.

Applicants hereby cancel claims 1-3, 5-16, and 18 without prejudice, as shown in the preceding Listing of Claims. Applicants hereby amend claim 17 without prejudice to include the proposed amendments set forth in the Office action, as shown in the preceding Listing of Claims. Applicants hereby add new claims 19-27. Support for new claims 19-27 can be found at least in claims 2, 5-8, 10, 11, 14, and 15 as originally filed. No new matter is entered thereby.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection and objection and passage of claims 17 and 19-27 to allowance.

1. Claims 1-3, 5, 8-16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook. Applicants have cancelled claims 1-3, 5, 8-16, and 18, thereby rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 8-16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook.

2. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook as applied to claims 1-3, 5, 8-16, and 18 above, and further in view of LaBaw. Applicants have cancelled claims 6 and 7, thereby rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook as applied to claims 1-3, 5, 8-16, and 18 above, and further in view of LaBaw.

3. Claim 17 is objected to because of certain listed formalities, but would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome these objection(s), as set forth above. Applicants hereby amend claim 17 without prejudice to include the proposed amendments set forth in the Office action.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 17, and allowance of claim 17 in due course.

4. With this Amendment and Response, Applicants hereby add new claims 19-27. Claims 19-27 depend directly from amended independent claim 17 and are patentable for at least the reasons discussed hereinabove with respect to claim 17.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of new claims 19-27 in due course.

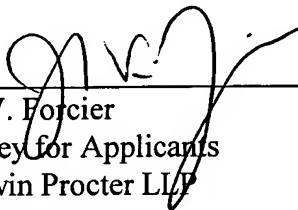
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and allowance of claims 17 and 19-27 in due course. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at the number listed below to discuss any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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